

24 APR 1975

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

SUBJECT: BUSHMASTER Program

(e) Based on the recommendations of the March 6, 1975 DSARC II review of the BUSHMASTER program, I authorize the Army to proceed with development of a 25mm automatic cannon system, with the following understanding:

a. The Army will conduct a high priority effort to obtain a satisfactory design for TOW (in combination with the selected 25mm automatic cannon) on the squad carrier MICV. The Army will advise DDR&E within 30 days from the date of this memorandum regarding the most appropriate time for a program review of this MICV configuration.

b. The Army will proceed immediately with full-scale development of the 25mm ammunition selected for BUSHMASTER. Once successfully developed and approved for production, this ammunition will be the basis for the standard to which all 25mm ammunition developed or produced for use by the US military Services must conform unless specific exception is authorized. In addition, this ammunition will be proposed as the 25mm NATO standard. The Army should obtain development and production rights at most favorable costs for all potential US applications of this ammunition. Further, the Army will continue development of the XM714 fuze for use with this and other ammunition in the 20-30mm range.

c. The Army will immediately initiate, with FY 75 Army funds, an aggressive program to develop an externally-powered gun to fire the standard 25mm ammunition as a candidate for BUSHMASTER production. This gun also should be considered for potential use (with changes as necessary) on attack helicopters as a replacement for the 30mm WEUCOM system and the Army's new air defense gun system (if the Army decides to proceed with such a program). However, evaluation of the WEUCOM 30 system on the AAI prototypes may proceed as currently planned. The availability of the gun as a competitor for the MICV BUSHMASTER is not to be delayed by the additional study or development which may be required for potential attack helicopter or air defense uses.

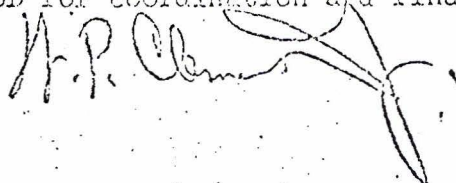
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d. The Army may announce immediately the winner of the U.S. competition for development of a self-powered 25mm gun. Authority to enter full-scale development of a self-powered gun is withheld, without prejudice, pending a review of all options for procurement of the KBA. The Army should conduct this review as soon as possible, and present the results to me for approval and authority to complete any development efforts that may be required. The selection between the self-powered and externally-powered candidates as the production gun for MICV is to be based on results of a shoot-off and will include evaluation of other factors such as reliability growth and production cost.

e. Costs of an interim weapon for MICV will be minimized. Development of improved ammunition for the PI M139 should be cancelled. The dual feeder should also be discontinued if cost savings will result. The choice between the austere PI M139 and the MK29 guns will be made on the basis of net cost to the DoD after analysis of acquisition costs, integration costs, retrofit costs, and the value of the interim guns and ammunition in Army or other Service applications when the interim guns are removed from the MICV. Low-rate initial production of the interim system selected for MICV must be dependent on a reasonable development and initial operational test and evaluation of the selected system.

f. The deferred FY 75 BUSHMASTER BMTAE funds will be released immediately to support the program as outlined herein. Source selection authority for the BUSHMASTER program, including the externally-powered gun, is delegated to the Army. The current draft of DCP No. 81B is to be revised by the Army to reflect this program, including plans for the externally-powered and self-powered gun candidates for BUSHMASTER, and the interim system for MICV. The revised DCP should be submitted within 60 days to OSD for coordination and final approval.



cc: Secretary of the Navy
Secretary of the Air Force

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